STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Superfund Records Center SITE BREAK: 550347

SUPERIOR COURT

) LAW DIVISION
) UNION COUNTY
) DOCKET # L-97231-88

SOLVENTS RECOVERY SERVICE :

NEW ENGLAND, INC., AND SOLVENTS RECOVERY SERVICE OF NEW JERSEY,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

EXCESS INSURANCE COMPANY, HOME INSURANCE COMPANY, ET AL,

Defendants.

SDMS DocID 550347

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS RALPH
THERIAULT, TAKEN BEFORE LEE ANN BIANCUCCI,
R.P.R., A NOTARY PUBLIC IN THE STATE OF
CONNECTICUT, PURSUANT TO SUBPOENA, AT THE HOWARD
JOHNSON MOTEL, ROUTE I-84 AND CONN. 10,
SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT, ON NOVEMBER 12, 1990,
AT 1:28 P.M.

Lee Ann Biancucci, R.P.R. Brandon Reporting Service 450 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103 (203) 549-1850 pit?

- A Sherman-Tomasso sand pit. Located in Southington?
- 3 Q I believe so.
- 4 A Sherman-Tomasso sand pit, yes.
- Do you know exactly where that sand pit was located?
- 7 A Yes, it's off of DePaolo Drive off of West Street.
 8 DePaolo Drive is off of West Street. The sand pit
 9 is off of DePaolo Drive.
- 10 Q Was there a landfill located near this location?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Is that the new landfill?
- 13 A It has since been closed.
- Q Was this the landfill that was in operation prior to 1967?
- 16 A No. This is the one that opened in '67 after the
 17 other one was closed. This is the one that just
 18 closed recently. I don't know how long ago. Maybe
 19 a few years back.
- Q Just to be clear, the landfill close to this sand
 pit is the one that opened in 1967, approximately,
 and was recently closed?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q Did you ever observe any waste coming in from the Solvents Recovery plant?

Ten-wheeler dump truck. When did you first see these Solvents trucks coming onto the property? This is the old landfill? Α Yes, the old landfill. Q Probably in the late fifties, around there, '57, A '58, something like that Early sixties. It was 8 over a period of years. That's about the late -maybe '57 or something, as far as I can remember 9 10 back when they started bringing it in there. Did the shipments continue up to the time the old 11 12 landfill was closed in 1967? 13 They might have stopped bringing it in there for a 14 couple of years before the landfill closed, '65 or 15 something like that. I am not sure. I am not sure 16 whether they kept bringing it in there until the 17 landfill closed or not. 18 They continued to bring it in up until 1965? 19 Sixty-five or something like that, probably 164. Α 20 Did the quantities of the refuse they brought into 21 the landfill, did that ever change during this 22 period of time? 23 No. It seemed to be about the same, whenever they 24 trucked it in there. Do you know what types of materials Solvents was

- Q How much liquid would you see during a typical load or off-load?
- A Typical load, maybe, maybe a third of it and the load would be liquid and the rest would be more like solids. It was -- like I say, it was a semi-liquid. It wasn't all liquid. It wasn't all solids.
- Q This percentage, was this continuous for all occasions that Solvents Recovery would send trucks onto the property?
- A Pretty much so.
 - Q You don't know whether or not anyone ever did any testing on that sludge?
- 21 A No.

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Q In terms of the actual transportation, could you describe the physical operation of how these trucks would be handled, let's say from the time it first showed up at the front gate?

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A Usually, we had some trenches dug, like, and they would dump into the trenches. That's -- they would come in the gate and dump it in the trench. As far as them loading it, I never went on their property. I don't know how they loaded it or got it into the truck.
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- Q How deep were these trenches?
- A What's that?
- 9 Q How deep were the trenches?
- 10 A Maybe six feet.
- 11 Q Fix feet deep?
- 12 A Yes.

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- 13 Q And the width?
- 14 A Maybe 15 feet wide, and it was as long as -- just
 15 kept digging the trench along.
- 16 Q Who dug these trenches out?
- 17 A The Town did.
- Q Were these trenches dug specifically to accept the refuse from Solvents?
- 20 A Yes.
- Q Do you know who made the decision to dig these trenches?
- 23 A No.
- Q Were these trenches dug to the period of time of the operation of the landfill?

- Was the north side of the property higher than the south side?
- The north side was lower. 9
- 10 You testified before that you had noticed leachate 11 coming from the landfill. Did you ever specifically notice leachate coming from these 12 Solvents trenches?
 - In areas, yes, besides where the trash was being ..**A** dumped, regular trash, because it was leachate coming from the whole area.
 - There was also specific leachate coming from these Q trenches of Solvents'?
- 19 Α Yes.

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- 20 Can you describe the color of the leachate?
- It was multi-colored, like brown, blue, yellow, 21 Α 22 greenish.
- 23 How about the quantity?
- Not too much, but enough to notice that it was 24 coming out of the leachate. It was leachate. 25

wasn't rainwater. 2 Was it worse when it rained? Q I would say so, yes. The rain soaked in there. 3 Α Did you ever observe the leachate migrate off the Q 5 landfill? It stayed more or less in the area of the 6 Α landfill and into the pond. It would flow down the 7 8 pond because it was sloping down towards the pond. Did any excess leachate ever form its own pond? 9 10 Α No. Did you ever see Solvents bring any drums onto the 11 12 property? 13 (Nodding negatively). Α You have to answer verbally. 14 15 Α No. After the Solvents truck would deposit its refuse 16 in this trench, at that point, would it be treated 17 18 with any substances? 19 A No. What would happen to it following its placement? 20 21 Being dumped there? 22 Q Yes. Well, after the trench, which I said was about six 23 feet deep or so, was pretty near up to the level of 24 25 the ground, then it would be covered up with

gravel.

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- How long, typically, would it take from the time the trench was first filled to the time it was covered?
- I would say it was usually done within a week. Α Within a week.
- Q Was the leachate worse prior to the covering of a particular trench?
- 9 Α Yes.
- 10 Q Once a trench was covered, did you ever notice any leachate at that point? 11
- Not in the area where the stuff was dumped. A 12
- In terms of the covering, how much gravel would you 13 use? 14
- Maybe a foot and a half or two feet. 15 Α
- Where would you get this gravel from? 16 Q
- Various fill banks around the town, gravel banks. Α. 17 There was one particular one right near the 18 landfill on Old Turnpike Road. There was another 19 one down on Mulberry Street.
- Do you have the names of these? 21 Q
- No. A 22

- Did the Town of Southington own these? 23 Q
- No. The one on Mulberry Street where the Town and 24 Highway Garage was was owned by the Town. The one 25

- on Old Turnpike was owned by a private. I guess they paid him for the gravel, the Town paid him for the gravel to cover up the landfill with.
- Q When the old landfill closed in 1967, what did you do at that point in terms of your duties and responsibilities for the Town?
- A What did I do?
- 8 Q Yes.

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- 9 A I was assistant street superintendent.
- Q Did you ever have occasion to revisit the old landfill?
- 12 A Yes.
- Q Are you aware of whether or not a key to the old landfill was ever given to Solvents?
- 15 A No, I am not aware of that.
- Q Are you aware of whether Solvents Recovery ever used the old landfill after its official closing?
- 18 A No.
- Q Are you aware if anyone used the landfill at that point?
- 21 A No.
- Q Have you ever heard of Ace Trucking, Inc.?
- 23 A Ace Trucking. I think I have.
- Q Do you know what type of concern they are?
- A Aren't they trash haulers? I think they are trash

haulers.

Q Do you know whether or not Solvents ever employed Ace Trucking?

A No.

Q How about, have you ever heard of the New England Barrel Company?

A No.

When you say previously that Solvents Recovery would come in and deposit their refuse in the landfill, were these Solvents Recovery owned trucks?

12 A No. No. No.

Q So these were trucks that were brought onto the property under contract to Solvents Recovery?

A Yes.

Q How did you know that these were Solvents Recovery contracted trucks?

A Well, I knew the contractor who was hauling the stuff from Solvents Recovery, and I knew where it was coming from. I observed them driving down the street. They were coming from Solvents Recovery and bridging the stuff in there.

Q That was Mastrianni?

A Yes.

Q Are you familiar with the Pratt & Whitney plant in

- 1 A Just about the time they reopened the plant in, I
 2 forget just when that plant was reopened. It may
 3 have been '50, '51 because they shut it down after
 4 the war, around '46 or something. Then they
 5 reopened it and it might have been '49, somewheres
 6 around there. It's a long time ago. At that time,
 7 until the time it closed, they brought trash in.
 - Q Were there any trenches dug for Pratt & Whitney?
 - A No.

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- 10 Q Did you ever notice any leachate coming from any of
 11 the materials that Pratt & Whitney had deposited
 12 there?
 - A Not in particular, no.
- Q Were there ever any trenches dug on the landfill for anyone else, other than Solvents Recovery?
- 16 A No.
- Q Why were there trenches dug for Solvents Recovery?
- A Well, the stuff that they were bringing in there,
 like I told you, it was a semi-liquid stuff. It
 wasn't all plain liquid. It was like jello almost.

 If you dumped it on the ground, like -- I don't
 know how to explain it -- it would would kind of
 flow out so it was hard to contain. That's why we

dug the trenches, to keep it in the trench.

Q Was it successful?

A I would say so, yes, as far as it flowing from the area where it was dumped. It was pretty well contained where it was dumped.

- Q Did you ever have occasion to see a load of materials from Solvents Recovery that somehow spilled onto the property or otherwise was not placed correctly in the trench?
- A The trench where it was supposed to be? No, not really. No.
- Q Were there any peculiar odors, other than those that are typically associated with a landfill --MS. MARTIN: Object. I am sorry.
- Q (By Mr. Nitti) -- coming from the point of the Solvents Recovery trenches?

MS. MARTIN: Objection as to the use of the word, "peculiar."

- Q (By Mr. Nitti) You can answer if you understand.
- A I don't understand the question.
- Q Would it be fair to say that there are odors that come from a landfill?
 - A Would it be fair to say? Yes, there is odors that come from landfills, yes.
 - Q These odors in the landfill, were there any different odors on the part of the landfill that had the Solvents materials as opposed to the other

part of the landfill that did not?

A My personal opinion, the material that was coming from Solvents was more of a chemical smell as opposed to a garbage smell. There are particular smells, but there is a garbage odor and a chemical odor. Do you understand?

Q Yes, I do.

Was there any other part of the landfill from which this, quote, chemical odor, emanated from that you can recall during any of this period?

A No.

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- 12 Q Was the odor worse in the summer?
- 13 A I wouldn't say so.
- Q Did anyone ever complain about the odors, any of the neighbors?
- 16 A Not that I know of.
 - Q You testified earlier, I believe, that you had never seen Solvents Recovery bring any drums onto the property. Do you know whether or not they had, in fact, brought any drums; did they ever tell you?
- 21 A I don't know whether they did or not.
- Q Did you ever see any drums on the landfill?
- 23 A Did I ever see any there?
- 24 Q Yes.
- 25 A Empty drums maybe, but not drums with no material

- they involved the burning of household trash? 24
- 25 Yes. Α

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- 23 their local household trash so if you asked me a 24 question or he asked a question, did I think that 25

there was oil being brought in there, I would assume, I am pretty sure there was. 2 Did you ever see any oil being brought in? 3 Q A No. 5 Did anyone ever indicate to you that the pond at the landfill was polluted? 6 7 A No. Did you ever see any indications that the pond was 8 Q polluted yourself? 9 That it might be polluted? 10 Α 11 Yes. Q 12 Yes. A 13 What were those indications? 14 The leachate was running towards the pond, so I A assumed there it was polluting the pond. 15 16 Did you ever report this to anybody? 17 Α No. . 18 Q Did you ever see any representatives or employees of Solvents Recovery Services at the landfill? 19 20 Α No. That's all I have. Thank you. 21 22 MR. NOLAN: I have no questions at this 23 time. 24 25

Q Is that capital M small c, C-o-y? Α 2 Yes. 3 Later on in your testimony, you stated that you Q believed that Solvents Recovery brought waste to 4 5 the landfill up until 1964, 1965? 6 (Nodding head affirmatively). Α 7 Do you have any recollection --8 MR. NOLAN: Let the record reflect you 9 have to answer verbally. (By Mr. Albertson) You have to say yes or no. 10 Q 11 MR. NOLAN: You were nodding your 12 head. 13 Α Yes. (By Mr. Albertson) Do you have any recollection of 14 15 Solvents Recovery bringing refuse or sludge to the landfill after 1965? 16 17 After '65? Α 18 Q Yes. 19 Α No. Thank you. I have no further questions. 20 21 MS. BOROCK: No questions. 22 23 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LUAREZ: 24 Mastrianni, is he still located in the town? 25 Q ·

Q You live in the town; correct? Yes. 3 Q Do you recall at any point in time reading that there was some concerns about the landfill? No. 5 Α As we sit here today, you haven't read anything in 6 Q any newspaper in the town of Southington that the 7 landfill was of any concern? 8 No. 9 Α Do you know Mr. Boll at all; B-o-1-1? 10 B-o-1-1? No. 11 Α 12 Have you ever met any of the principals of SRS; Q. Solvents Recovery Service? 13 No. 14 A 15 I have no further questions. 16 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. MORABITO: 17 18 19 (By Mr. Morabito) Would you be able to identify the Board of Selectmen from, let's say, 1960 to 20 '66, who was on the board? 21 22 A Mr. Val DePaolo. Q Anyone else? A Arthur DellaVecchia, Joseph Louis who has since 24

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deceased.

Q Is that it?

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- A Thomas Galick. That's about it.
- You testified before that it was the usual practice for the caretaker at the landfill to direct the truck drivers into the landfill and direct those truck drivers where to deposit their waste. You said sometimes if a truck driver went to the landfill regularly enough, he would know where to dump without direction; is that correct?
- 10 A Yes, if they were collecting household trash or whatever.
- Q How about the SRS, Solvents Recovery Service drivers, would they dump undirected at the landfill?
- 15 A No. No. No.
- Q You testified before that you actually observed leachate flowing towards the pond on the property; is that correct?
- 19 A Uh-huh.
- Q Did you see any leachate actually enter into the pond?
- 22 A Actually entering into the pond? I think so. Yes
- 23 Q What did that look like?
- 24 A It was colored blue, green, brown.
- 25 Q Did you see that leachate flowing on top of the

water, or -- did it actually flow on top of the water?

A Yes.

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- Q I don't think you were quite sure when the Town well near the landfill became operational. My question is, do you know if it became operational before the landfill closed in 1966?
- A I think it was. I would say yes.
- 9 Q The trenches that were dug at the landfill to
 10 receive the sludge from Solvents Recovery Service,
 11 how long did these trenches remain open before
 12 sludge was put into the trenches?
- Sometimes it would be open a couple of weeks before they put the stuff in there.
 - Q Did you ever notice water collecting at the bottom of the trench before the sludge was put in?
- 17 A Yes.
 - Q Do you know how deep the water table is at the landfill?
- 20 A No. No.
- 21 Q Would it be fair to say that the longer the trench
 22 remained open, the more water would flow into the
 23 trench, the higher the water would get in the
 24 trench?
- 25 A No.

up? Α To see it was covered up, yes. Did you drive trucks or a bulldozer? 3 Q Α No. You just drove a truck in that would have fill in 5 Q it? 6 7 Α In the early years. Later on, I was more of a supervisor. 8 You would just observe? 9 10 Α To see that the trucks were bringing the fill in. Other than having the responsibilities to see that 11 Q the trash was covered up and actually hauling in 12 the fill yourself, did you have any other 13 responsibilities with respect to the landfill? 14 No. 15 Α It was not your determination to dig trenches for 16 anybody's waste? 17 Α No. 18 Do you know whose decision that was? 19 .. **Q** It was the Selectmen. Α 20 That was not Solvents' decision, as far as you were 21 Q 22 aware? It wasn't Solvents' decision, no. 23 : **A** During your earlier testimony, you talked about the 24 area that was used for Solvents' waste. As far as 25

you are aware, was there an actual designated area that was exclusively for Solvents' waste, or was it in and among the rest of the waste in the landfill?

- A It wasn't amongst the rest of the waste. It was an area just for Solvents.
- Q Nothing else was put in that area?
- A Yes. In the trenches there was, like I said, washing machines and maybe some furniture like chairs, old chairs and bed springs and any pieces of metal, bed springs, stuff like that. Kind of a bulky waste like.
- Q I believe you testified that the area where the trenches were dug was on the north part of the landfill?
- 15 A Yes.

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- Q You said that the south end was higher than the north end; is that correct?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Where was the pond?
- 20 A I would say it was east of the landfill.
- Q On the east portion of the landfill?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q On any of the occasions that you were present when waste from Solvents' was brought to the landfill, did you ever observe them dump or deposit their

waste anywhere that they were not directed to do so? 2 No. 3 We discussed earlier waste that came from Solvents 4 Q and waste that came from Pratt & Whitney, as far as 5 characterizing them as industry. Was there any 6 other industry that you were aware of that used 7 this landfill for any type of waste? 8 For any type of waste? 9 Any of their refuse that they would generate. 10 Q. Any other industry? 11 Α Correct. 12 (Nodding head affirmatively). 13 Α Is that yes? Q 14 That's yes. A 15 Are you able to describe any of the waste that Q 16 other industry would have brought into the 17 landfill? 18 Mostly metal shavings and things like that, I would 19 全国的 海州教士 医中毒性 say, paper products, wooden skids and things of 20 that nature, stuff from sweeping the floors. 21 =Practically all the local mindustries used the 22 landfill,_but_there-has-got=to-be; I don't know how 23 many local industries that used it. 24 So there were a lot of them? 25

- A Yes. That's what it looked like.
- 7 Q You said that there was a plastic liner in the trucks?
 - A Plastic liner in the trucks, yes.
- 10 Q Did these trucks actually physically dump the waste into the trenches?
- 12 A Yes.

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- 13 Q Regular dump trucks?
- 14 A Regular dump truck, yes.
- Q Did you ever see what happened to those plastic liners?
 - A That usually went into the trench when the truck was dumped, when they opened up the tailgate.
 - Q Did you have any conversations with any of the drivers for Mastrianni about the wastes that they were hauling for Solvents?
- 22 A No.
- Q Do you know who supplied the plastic liners that were in the trucks?
- 25 A No.

I have no further questions. Q

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. NITTI:

I have a few other questions.

I believe you testified in response to Miss Martin's questions that there were other materials in the Solvents trenches that were not put there by Solvents; is that correct?

Α Yes.

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- With regard to the total amount of the materials 11 that were eventually put into these trenches, what percentage would you say was put there from Solvents?
- Probably about 25 percent. 15
 - So that 75 percent of the materials that eventually went into the trenches were from generators other than Solvents; is that correct?
- 19 Α Yes.
 - You had also testified, I believe, that at a certain point in time, you would go out to the Southington Landfill weekly to determine whether or not to cover the trash; is that correct?
- 24 Yes.
 - Was that as a matter of routine, or were you Q